



**Taking it one step  
at a time.**



# **FAMILY DISASTER PLANNING**

*Where will you and your family be when disaster strikes? What would you do if basic services - water, gas, electricity, and telephones - were cut off for long periods?*

Whether faced with a family emergency or a regional disaster, the effort you've put into family preparedness and disaster planning will play a large role in how well you "survive" the event. The following steps can help you enhance your family's preparedness.

## **➤ IDENTIFY THE HAZARDS**

Visit the library, contact the American Red Cross or your local Emergency Manager, and log on to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) web site at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) to learn about the hazards in your area.

- ☒ Winter Storm      ☒ Earthquake
- ☒ Flood              ☒ Wildfire
- ☒ Wind Storm      ☒ Landslide
- ☒ Hazardous Material Spill

## **✕ LEARN HOW THE HAZARDS CAN IMPACT YOUR FAMILY**

Assess what the consequences might be for your family when disaster strikes. Consider the time of day, the day of the week, and the time of year.

- ☒ Injury              ☒ Separation
- ☒ Isolation          ☒ Power Outage
- ☒ Phone Outage    ☒ Water Outage
- ☒ Property Damage

## **✕ IDENTIFY STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO MINIMIZE OR PREVENT THE HAZARD IMPACTS**

Determine procedures and practices you can develop/implement to enhance your disaster resistance. Consult with the Red Cross, your local Emergency Manager, or FEMA for assistance.

- Plans for home escape, neighborhood evacuation, and family communication.
- Procedures for drop, cover, and hold; shelter in-place; and utility shutoff.
- Training in CPR, basic first aid, and use of a fire extinguisher.
- Hazard-resistant construction materials.
- Floodproofing, landscaping, and site drainage practices.
- Non-structural earthquake hazard mitigation techniques.
- Warning system installation (e.g., smoke detectors).
- Comprehensive hazard insurance for your home and personal property (e.g., fire, flood, and earthquake).
- Neighborhood disaster resource inventory.

## **IDENTIFY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES YOU'LL NEED TO HELP SURVIVE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES**

- Food and Water
- First Aid Supplies
- Sanitation Supplies
- Clothing and Bedding
- Prescription and Non-prescription Medicines
- Light Sources (flashlights, candles, and/or light sticks)
- Tools, Equipment, and Supplies (manual can opener, utensils, fire extinguisher, matches, money, batteries, etc.)
- Special Items (baby supplies, pet food, important family documents, etc.)

## **IDENTIFY THE EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, PROCEDURES, AND PRACTICES YOU ALREADY HAVE IN PLACE**

- Camping Gear (sleeping bags, cooking equipment, utensils, etc.)
- Fire Escape Plan
- Extra Food and Water
- First Aid Kit

## **IDENTIFY YOUR SHORTFALLS**

What equipment, supplies, procedures, and plans do you need to complete your family preparedness effort?

## **DEVELOP A PLAN TO ELIMINATE THE SHORTFALLS**

Identify short and long term objectives. For the short term, focus on items that are low cost or easy to implement and that have high payoff. Some suggestions include:

- Install hazard warning systems such as smoke detectors.
- Develop fire escape and neighborhood evacuation plans.
- Develop a simple family communications plan such as a wallet card with common numbers to call and important policy numbers.
- Develop drop, cover, and hold; utility shutoff; and shelter in-place procedures.
- Attend CPR, basic first aid, and fire extinguisher training.
- Begin or expand your disaster supplies kit. Start with basic necessities such as food, water, light sources, first aid supplies, clothing, and bedding.
- Host a neighborhood meeting to exchange preparedness information and ideas.

For the long term, focus on higher cost items or those that are more difficult to implement. These items might include:

- Special tools and equipment.
- Structural earthquake mitigation.
- Expanded insurance coverage.
- Drainage improvements.
- Building retrofitting.

## **TRAIN AND MAINTAIN**

- Conduct fire evacuation drills.
- Test/recharge fire extinguishers.
- Practice utility shutoff; drop, cover, and hold; and shelter in-place procedures.
- Replace stored food, water, and medicines before the expiration date.
- Test smoke detectors.
- Test communications plans.